

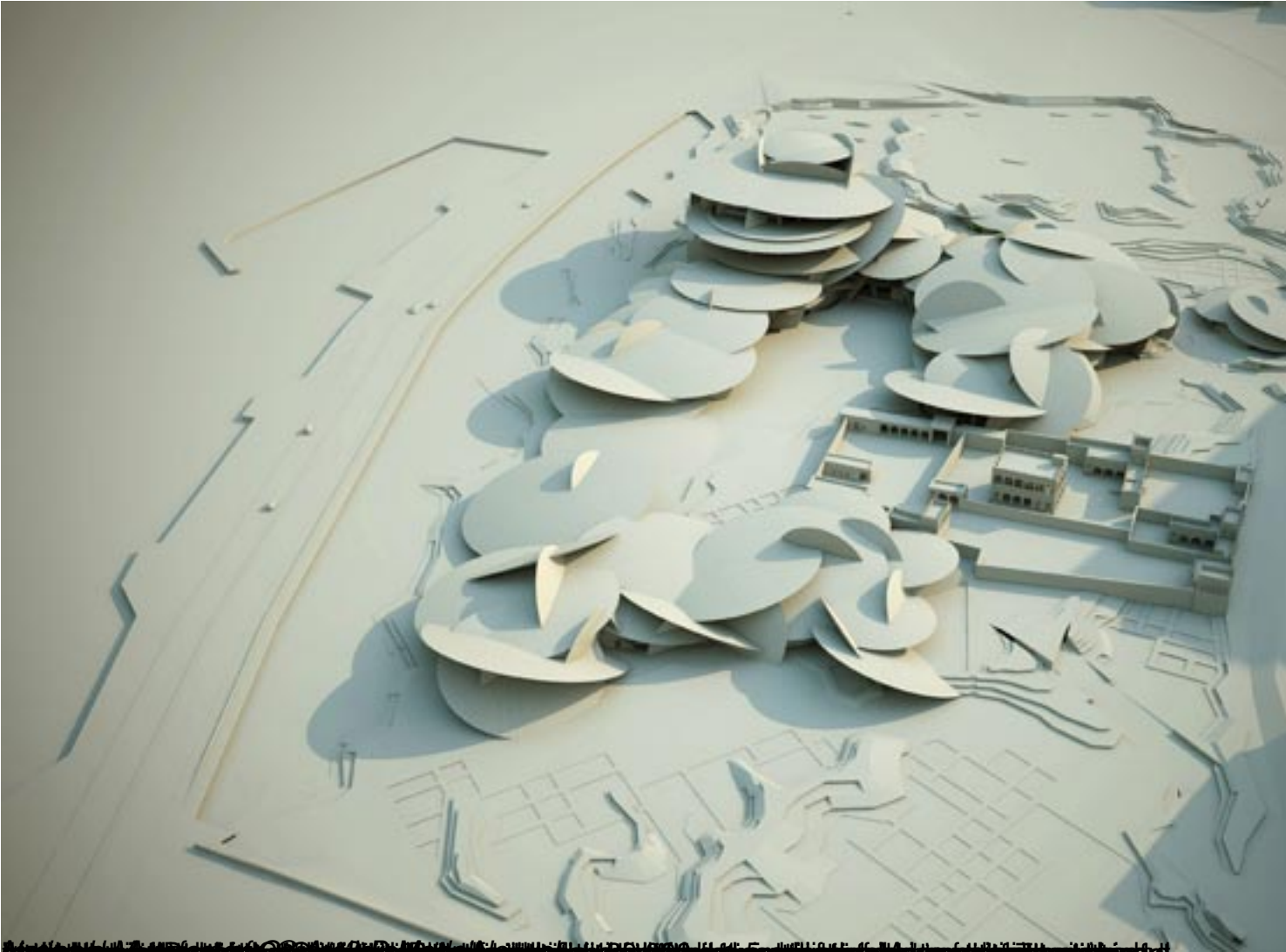
A great effort is currently being exhorted to transform the small state of Qatar into a hub of culture and communications for the Gulf region. The Qatar Museums Authority (QMA) has just announced its plans for the new National Museum of Qatar, as expressed in an evocative design by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Jean Nouvel.



*National Museum of Qatar, North View*

*Image by Artefactory, © Ateliers Jean Nouvel*

Nouvel's concept wanted to embody the pride and traditions of Qatar's people while offering international visitors a dialogue about rapid change and modernization. The National Museum of Qatar will be the setting for an ambitious program in which entire walls become cinematic displays, "sonorous cocoons" shelter oral-history presentations and hand-held mobile devices guide visitors through thematic displays of the collection's treasures. Though built around an historic structure, the Fariq Al Salatah Palace, which had served as a museum of heritage since 1975, the National Museum of Qatar is conceived and designed as a thoroughly new institution, in keeping with the high aspirations that animate QMA.



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